

FORM B - BUILDING

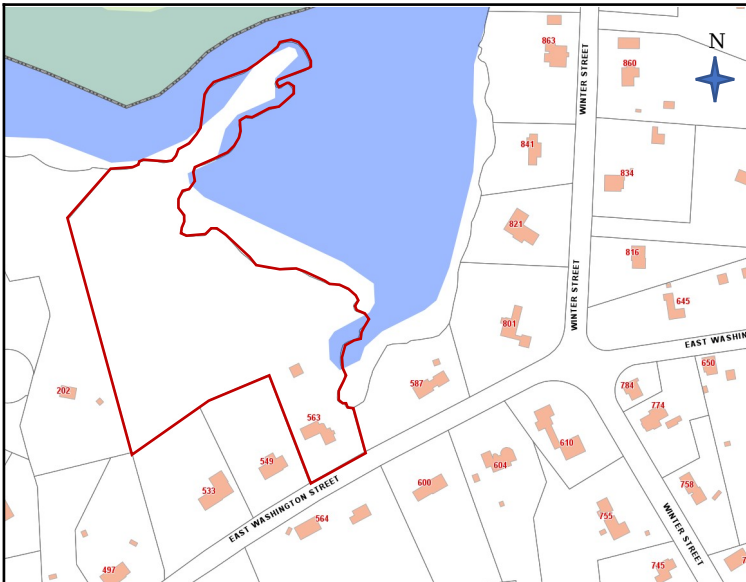
Date (*month / year*): June 2018

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL
COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lara Kritzer, JM Goldson
community preservation + planning

Organization: Hanson Historical Commission

114-0-6-0

Hanover

HNS.203

Town/City: Hanson

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Address: 563 East Washington Street

Historic Name: James and Ruth Hewitt House

Uses: Present: Single-Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1854

Source: White's History, Plan 5, No. 28, Page
86

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboard/Wood

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Gable roofed barn/former ice house to north of house, wood rail fencing to the north of the house and along the south property line.

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Early twentieth century attached garage

Condition: Good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 5.87 Acres

Setting: Located on one of Hanson's main thoroughfares in an area of predominantly single-family homes ranging from early eighteenth century farmhouses to late twentieth century suburban development on large lots which includes grass lawns and numerous mature trees, bushes, and other vegetation.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

HANSON

563

East Washington Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

HNS.203

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The two-story gable roofed house has Greek Revival style detailing on its original rectangular form. The house sits with its gable-end façade facing the street and is wood clapboard sided with wood trim. A narrow, square, corbeled brick chimney is located at the center of the asphalt shingled gable roof's ridge. The double hung windows are twelve-over-twelve wood replacement windows with long, narrow shutters installed on the siding to either side of the window frames. A one-story addition to the north façade of the house extends out past the west façade in a long, low wing that gives the building an L-shaped footprint.

The front façade of the house faces east rather than south towards the street. The gable roof projects out slightly over both the east and west facades with flat wood eaves and soffits. The second floor windows are tucked up below the eaves with two to the left of the off-center entrance and one to the right. The first floor shares this window pattern surrounding an enclosed projecting entry located to the right of center on the façade. The entry has a shallow gable-end roof that projects out over the facades on all sides. The eaves and soffits are finished in wood molding and the pediment is a narrow, flat wood board which extends down below the eaves and projects out in front of the wood clapboard walls below. A metal replacement door is centered and slightly inset into the wall below with a low brick landing and steps leading into the yard. A small six-over-six window is located on the south façade of the entry.

On the south facing gable-end, the roof extends out beyond the pediment with a wide band of wood molding around the eaves, wide, painted wood soffits, and a narrow band of trim along the inner edge of the pediment. This same detailing extends around the lower corners of the pediment in long, thin returns. A single, large double hung window is located in the gable-end over three windows on each floor below.

The window pattern of the west facade is similar to the east façade with two windows on each floor to the left, a narrow break to the right of center, and a single window on each floor in the right corner. However, on the first floor, this window is now a three-sided bay window topped with a high hip roof and supported by wood brackets below. Four narrow casement windows are located within the bay. On the ground to its left is a metal bulkhead. The wing to the north and east of the house has a low gable roof with a cement block chimney in its northeast corner and skylights at the eastern end of the roof ridge. The south façade of the addition houses two garage doors and side entrance in three wide, arched openings. In the middle and western arch are flat wood overhead garage doors. The eastern bay is slightly lower than the other two and only a few feet deep. A replacement half door is located in the center of the wall within the opening. To the right of this opening, a small double hung window is set high on the wall. The flat roofed portion of the addition extends across the north façade of the original building as well.

To the north of the house, a tall, gable roofed, one-story building is located in the center of the yard. This building may be either the ice house noted in the history of the property or a later barn and is wood clapboard sided to match the house. Although unusually large and steep for such a short building, the asphalt-shingled

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

HANSON

563

East Washington Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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| | HNS.203 |
|--|---------|

gable roof is otherwise similar to the house. Narrow double hung windows are located along the south façade with larger windows visible on its east gable-end.

Wood post and rail fences run along the south property line and to the north of the barn. To the west of the house, a wide asphalt paved driveway leads to the attached garage and rear entrance. The site is open grass lawn with decorative trees and plantings surrounding the house and larger mature trees to the north and east surrounding the adjacent pond. According to the Google aerial view of the site, a large in-ground pool is located directly to the north of the house which is not visible from the street.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

According to White's History of Hanson, the structure at 563 E. Washington Street was originally built for James Hewitt (1834-1872), the son of Reverend Elmer A. Hewitt (1805-1897), and stood three feet north of the home of Reverend Hewitt, which was taken down in 1881.¹ Rev. Hewitt was the first pastor of the Universalist Church built on the corner of Washington and Whitman Streets in 1829.² The land was the homestead of Dr. Samuel Barker and sold to Rev. Hewitt in 1834. Elmer Hewitt was born in Vermont and married Mary Cobb in 1832. James Hewitt married Ruth Gardner in 1854, which is presumably when the existing house was built. However, the house never appears on any maps as being owned by James Hewitt, perhaps because it was the second house on a property already owned by his father. Alternatively, the house may not have been completed until after the 1856 Walling Map, which only shows one house and lists E. Hewitt as the owner. The property is bordered on the north by a pond called Wilder's Pond, Mill Pond and Cushing's Pond at different times.³

The 1879 Walker Atlas lists the next owner as Charles E. Soule (b.1857), a teacher, who purchased the building and lands from Rev. Hewitt in 1877.⁴ Charles E. Soule sold the land to Isiah Turner in 1879. The 1903 Richards Atlas lists C. Wilder as the owner—likely Cushing Wilder (1848-1933), a farmer who purchased the property from Isiah Turner at the time of his marriage to Agnes Bates in 1881.⁵ At this time, there were also four structures shown on the map. One of the structures is likely an ice house that is mentioned in White's History of Hanson. Cushing and his brother, Joseph, built the ice house on the property sometime between 1885 and 1887. The structure next to the pond is labeled as a saw mill. In the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, this mill is later referred to as a corn mill known as Quaker City Mill.⁶ In 1911, Cushing sold the property to Amelia and George J. Clark (1866-1965).⁷ George James John Clark was born in Prince Edward Island and married Amelia Crossman in 1898. The couple arrived in Hanover in 1901 where he organized the National Fireworks Company. Clark had purchased the old forge site on the Hanover side of the river for the manufacture of the fireworks.⁸ When Dwelley wrote his history of Hanover in 1910, the company had been reorganized as the National Fireworks

¹ Rev. Hewitt's house was built by Samuel Josselyn Sr. sometime around 1800. It was originally occupied by Dr. Samuel Barker and his wife. Rev. Hewitt occupied the house during his pastorate at the Universalist Church. The structure was taken down in 1881.

² Later, this church became known as Unity Hall. It burned down in 1876.

³ The 1830 Hanson Map labels the pond, "Mill Pond." In Book 1336, Page 382 of the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Amelia Clarke calls it "Cushing's Pond." White's History of Hanson labels it "Wilder's Pond" on the map of Plan No. 5.

⁴ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 445, Page 186

⁵ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 483, Page 555

⁶ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1076, Page 253-254

⁷ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1076, Page 253-254

⁸ Massachusetts, Mason Membership Cards, 1733-1990

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

HANSON

563

East Washington Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

| | |
|--|---------|
| | HNS.203 |
|--|---------|

Company and had more than a hundred small fireworks buildings on the site, of which Clark was manager.⁹ In the 1930 and 1940 U.S. Censuses, George is still listed as the manager for the fireworks company/factory.

In 1919, Amelia Clark sold the property to Walter E. Taylor.¹⁰ This conflicts with White's History, which lists the building in 1932 as a tenement owned by George Clark. The Taylors are listed on Washington Street in the 1920 through 1940 U.S. Censuses. Walter E. Taylor and his wife, Helen, had nine children and had moved to Hanson from Rhode Island. Walter owned an ice company in the 1920s and 1930s, but by 1940 was working as a sawyer in a local saw mill. In 1946, Taylor sold the property to Carmine and Mildred Saggione.¹¹ Over the next twenty years, the property changed hands several times until George Hempel purchased the building in 1968 from Maynard and Doris Clark. He remained in the house for almost forty years before selling it to current owner Josef Ramaci in 2004.¹²

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⁹ <https://archive.org/details/historyoftownofh00dwel/page/n233>

¹⁰ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1336, Page 381-383

¹¹ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1931, Page 377. By 1950, the ice house structure was gone—likely taken down by the Saggiones.

¹² Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 27386, Page 5-6

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

HANSON

563

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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

HNS.203

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